

Claim 2 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claim 1 further comprising:

~~administration of an antibacterial agent to said pregnant animal~~

administering to said pregnant animal an antibacterial agent in an amount effective to inhibit infection in said pregnant animal.

AI  
Conclude  
Claim 3 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claim 1 further comprising:

~~administration of tocolytic agent to said pregnant animal~~

administering to said pregnant animal a tocolytic agent in an amount effective to inhibit uterine contractions in said pregnant animal.

Claim 4 (original). The improved therapy of Claim 1 wherein said free radical scavenger is glutathione or NAC.

Claim 5 (original). The improved therapy of Claim 1 wherein said free radical scavenger is an antioxidant.

Claim 6 (withdrawn).

A2  
Claim 7 (currently amended). An improved therapy for ~~preventing~~ inhibiting the occurrence of premature rupture of membranes in a pregnant animal comprising:

administering to said pregnant animal a free radical scavenger, an agent, or precursor thereto, that

induces production of an endogenous inhibitor of reactive oxygen species, nitric oxide, or the production thereof to said pregnant animal in an amount effective to inhibit said occurrence of premature rupture.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claim 7 wherein the agent is a precursor of a ~~free radical scavenger selected from the group consisting of glutathione, or NAC,  $\beta$ -carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E.~~

*A2 conclude*  
Claim 9 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claim 7 wherein the free radical scavenger agent or a precursor thereto, is ~~a precursor of a free radical scavenger that is an antioxidant.~~

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Claim 10 (withdrawn).

Claim 11 (withdrawn).

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*A3*  
Claim 12 (currently amended). An improved therapy for improving the outcome of preterm deliveries of a pregnant animal comprising:

administering to said pregnant animal at least one ~~ROS-~~ reactive oxygen species inhibiting compound; or a precursor thereto, or an inducer thereof to the pregnant animal in an amount effective to improve said outcome of preterm deliveries.

13 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is selected from a the group consisting of monkeys, cows, sheep, chickens, horses, dogs, cats, and elephants.

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14 (original). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is mammal.

15 (original). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is a reptile.

16 (original). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is an amphibian.

17 (original). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is human.

AY 18 (currently amended). The improved therapy of Claims 1, 7, or 12 wherein said animal is a high risk patient selected from the group consisting of patients with a history of preterm labor, patients with preterm labor, cocaine users, preeclamptic patients and patients with ~~PPROM~~ preterm premature rupture of membranes.

19 (cancelled).

20 (withdrawn).

21 (withdrawn).

22 (withdrawn).